THE TENNESSEE WARBLER

Newsletter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society

August, 2024 Editor, Theresa Graham

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is in full swing, and I hope that many of you have been able to take advantage of the long days, weekends, and national holidays to relax or visit family and friends. I'm escaping the Tennessee weather this week for a vacation to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for a family reunion. I'll visit Seney NWR, where I first birded in the Eastern US some 30 years ago and saw my life Cedar Waxwing and Trumpeter Swan, among others. Over the next 20 years, I witnessed the swan population increase from just seven to well over 100 individuals. This trip will tide me over until fall migration. And speaking of fall, **the Memphis Chapter will host the TOS Fall Meeting September 27th-29th. I hope many of you will attend the meeting, bird, and explore West Tennessee.** Registration details are published in this issue of *The Tennessee Warbler*.

At the Spring Meeting in Knoxville, Chris Welsh (Knoxville chapter) was elected as President-Elect and will begin his duties in Spring 2025. Our Society will be in good hands! Thank you, Chris, for stepping into this role! In other TOS news, I am happy to announce that the Board of Directors voted to move publication of *The Migrant* to digital only, with the expectation that this change will occur in 2025. Currently, TOS spends approximately $10,000 a year, roughly a third of our annual budget, to print and mail *The Migrant*. The savings of moving to digital publication only are substantial and will allow TOS to allocate our resources more efficiently to better promote our mission to study and conserve the birds of Tennessee.

I wish each of you an enjoyable summer and encourage you to join us and your birding friends in Memphis in September.

Warmly,
Michael Collins
President, TOS

TOS FALL STATE MEETING IN MEMPHIS
SEPTEMBER 27 – 29, 2024

The Memphis Chapter invites you to the 2024 TOS Fall meeting to be held September 27 – 29 in Millington. Friday night registration and social will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, 5090 Copper Creek Boulevard, from 5 to 8 PM. The Saturday afternoon Board of Director's Meeting will be held at 2 PM in the recreation lodge at Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, 910 Riddick Road, Millington. A paper session will be held following the BOD meeting.

A block of rooms is being held at the Holiday Inn Express, with a rate of $129.00 plus tax, per night. Breakfast (0600 – 1000) is included. Call the Inn directly at (901) 872-3640 and mention TOS to make a reservation by August 30 to guarantee this rate. There are a number of other nearby hotels – Hampton Inn, Motel 6, Plantation Oaks Suites and Inn.

We are planning field trips for Saturday and Sunday mornings. Ensley Bottoms (shorebirds), Shelby Forest and Shelby Farms are likely destinations. We hope you will join us. For additional information, email dickpreston48@gmail.com.

FALL MEETING 2024 REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s) _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Cell phone _____

TOS Chapter _____ Office held _____

Is this the first time you have ever attended a TOS meeting? Yes__ No__

$ _____ for ____ Registrations @ $5 each

Payment may be made via PayPal, or by check.

To use PayPal, go to the **Memphis Chapter** website (www.birdmemphis.org). At the left side of the MTOS main page, click on the "Membership" tab in the left column. Then click on the "Donate" option in PayPal and enter your registration amount. Use the "Write a Note" option to enter attendee name(s) and the other data requested in the registration form.

If you pay by check, mail registration form and check **by September 1** to:

MTOS
8488 E Askersund Cove
Cordova, TN 38018-6836

Liz Hall
President, Memphis Chapter

GLOBAL BIG DAY 2024

On Saturday, May 11th, 65,725 eBirders (1.3 million in total) from 203 countries celebrated the birds around them for Global Big Day. Global Big Day coincides with World Migratory Bird Day. Together, the birding community submitted more checklists, reporting more species, than ever before in a single day.

The total number of checklists submitted via eBird (www.eBird.org) during this 24 hour event was 163,670. The number of species reported was 7,769 (just over 71% of the world's bird species). The number of photographs submitted was 82,550. This year, 4,820 audio recordings were submitted. Birders in the United States submitted the greatest number of these checklists (82,248), followed by Canada (14,039), Columbia (12,804), Peru (4,296) and India (3,183). Birders in Columbia reported the most species (1,561), followed by Peru (1,448), Brazil (1,206), Ecuador (1,199) and India (826). Birders in the United States came in tenth, with 726 species.

Texas reported the most species (408) followed by California (371), Oregon (298), Colorado (295) and Arizona (280). The most checklists were submitted by birders in New York (5,881) followed by Colorado (5,062), Michigan (4,248), Ohio (3,895) and Pennsylvania (3,829).

Tennessee birders reported a total of 217 species (25th) on 1,072 checklists (35th). Ruben Stoll and Cameron Rutt led the way, with 129, followed by Tim Lenz (122), Alan Troyer (121) and Sophie Dismukes (104). Evan Kidd submitted the most checklists (21), followed by Tim Lenz (19), Kathryn and Rick Barrow (18). Jason Cole, Dallas Harrell, Roi and Debbie Shannon all submitted 17.

The most species reported by county: Shelby (153), Blount (140), Humphreys (143), Blount (131), Davidson (131) and Hamilton (122). The most checklists submitted by county: Blount (134), Shelby (108), Davidson (93), Knox (89) and Hamilton (74). Eighty-one of the states ninety-five counties submitted at least one complete checklist, and 84 counties reported at least one species.

The next global event is October Big Day (Saturday, October 12, 2024).

Global Big Day 2025 will be held on Saturday, May 10th.

Source: Cornell University Lab of Ornithology (www.eBird.org).

For more details: www.ebird.org

CONSERVATION NOTES

Improved Neotropical Bill Becomes Law

With bipartisan support, the Migratory Birds of the Americas Enhancement Act of 2023 was signed into law by President Biden on 21 April. The House version passed the House on 5 April, followed rapidly by passage in the Senate on 17 April.

This reauthorizes funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) program through 2028 at $6.5 million annually. Since 2002, the original NMBCA has supported more than 700 bird projects in over three dozen countries in the Western Hemisphere.

While the $6.5 million is the same as the most recent funding amount, the match formula has been seriously improved from 3 to 1 to 2 to 1. By altering the formula, it is expected that smaller and more diverse organizations working in Latin America and the Caribbean will be able to access the program, conserving habitat for shared migratory bird species.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin May 2024.

You can access an archive of past bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association:

https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin

New York Bans Seeds Treated With Neonicotinoids

In the first statewide legislation of its kind in the nation, last month New York passed "The Birds and the Bees Protection Act" impacting the use of neonicotinoids. These neonicotinoids have been identified as particularly concerning for conserving populations of beneficial insects and birds alike, especially grassland and insectivorous birds.

The new state law is banning the use of neonicotinoid treated seeds in the corn, soybean and wheat agricultural sectors. It will go into effect in 2029, although treated seeds in other sectors, such as ornamentals or turf, will be banned in 2027.

Among the groups supporting this legislation were the American Bird Conservancy and the National Audubon Society. You can find more about this pioneering legislation from the press release here from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/new-york-neonic-ban-crop-seed-coatings/#

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin July 2024.

You can access an archive of past e-bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association:

https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin

Editor's note: TOS has supported the ban of neonicotinoids and is a member organization of the American Bird Conservancy

2024-25 Federal "Duck Stamp" On Sale

At the end of June, the 2024-25 Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp – commonly known as the "Duck Stamp" – went on sale. The new Stamp features a painting of a drake Northern Pintail by artist Chuck Black of Montana. His artwork was chosen last September through the Stamp's annual art contest.

Since 1934, proceeds from the Stamp have raised more than $1.2 billion to conserve over 6 million acres of wetland and grassland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System around the nation. It's not just waterfowl, but it's shorebirds, herons, raptors and songbirds – as well as mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and native plants – which benefit.

The $25 Stamp – required for waterfowl hunters as part of their annual license – is also frequently bought by birders, anglers, other outdoor enthusiasts and friends of National Wildlife Refuges as a way to support effective conservation. The purchase of a valid Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp also is good for free admission into any National Wildlife refuge that charges for entry.

You can find out about the new Stamp, its role in saving birds and habitat, and more here:
https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2024-06/service-debuts-new-federal-and-junior-duck-stamps.

Source: The Birding Community E-Bulletin July 2024

You can access an archive of past e-bulletins on the website of the National Wildlife Refuge Association:
https://www.refugeassociation.org/birding-community-e-bulletin

2024 TOS Grant Winners Announcement

The Tennessee Ornithological Society solicits applications for conservation and research grants to support projects that directly or indirectly help to protect the birds of Tennessee, increase scientific knowledge, or educate others about the importance of Tennessee's birds. Anyone with a bird-related project, including students, professionals, and individual workers, may compete for a grant. This year the Conservation Research and Funding Committee received an unprecedented number of funding requests, and despite a generous budget, we were unable to fund some deserving projects.

For 2024 TOS funded eight promising projects, and here are the winners! In West Tennessee Julia Weil will examine how personality predicts pathogen spread via suppressed sickness behaviors in House Finches. Dr. Kelly Miller and colleagues will expand Bird Safe Memphis to document and reduce bird-window collisions, and Shelby Green will research the parental investment and defense in Carolina Wrens and Prothonotary Warblers against Brown-headed Cowbirds. In Middle Tennessee, Amy Johnson is investigating the nesting behavior and success of Chuck-wills-widow, and Ryan Davenport is surveying age and sex ratios in Chimney Swift roosts. Cyndi Routledge will research seasonal movements of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. In East Tennessee, Eric Collins will monitor Northern Bobwhites at Seven Islands State Birding Park, and Marquete Crockett will compare the effectiveness of automated recording units (ARUs) to determine site occupancy in Golden-winged Warblers.

If you know any of these recipients, please congratulate them and ask them about their work. TOS looks forward to hearing from these grant recipients at a TOS meeting, with an update in *The Tennessee Warbler*, or with an article in *The Migrant*.

Respectfully,
Michael Collins
Conservation Research and Funding Committee, Chair

THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY – TAKE ACTION FOR BIRDS

Birds face a seemingly endless number of significant threats to their survival. Some of the most serious are habitat loss, collisions with windows and other obstacles, feral and free-roaming domestic cats, pesticides, and other pollutants.

So what can we do to help? Many find it too difficult, time consuming or hopeless. Some just don't know how to start. It all seems so overwhelming. Fortunately, The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) makes it easy.

Go to: www.abcbirds.org. At the top of the page, place your cursor over "get involved." From the drop down menu, select "take action." Follow the simple directions and send a prepared message (which you may personalize) automatically, to your members of Congress.

Current topics:

1) Speak up for a stronger Farm Bill for birds.
2) Get toxic pesticides out of National Wildlife Refuge farming practices.
3) Help empower communities and save birds from toxic pesticides.

Editor's note: TOS is a member organization of ABC.

Spring Count Data Now Due

Spring bird count data are due as soon as possible to allow me to get my report to the editor of *The Migrant* in a timely fashion. Besides the actual count data, please be sure to include the following effort data:

1. Hours and miles by car, foot, and any night birding
2. Number of observers and parties
3. Any feeder watching hours & names
4. Start and end times for the count
5. Weather data for the count
6. Names of all the participants
7. Anything else about the count, i.e., record high or low numbers, extraordinary weather, all-time species total for your particular count, etc.

Compilers: please try to use a bird checklist that is based on somewhat recent taxonomy. This greatly speeds up my job compiling these reports. Our TOS field cards are being updated and should contain the latest taxonomy

If you do not have a local compiler, you can send the data directly to me at the address/email below.

TOS appreciates your efforts to record and monitor our bird populations and abundance. Thanks for helping us to archive this data for future generations and researchers. It IS important.

Ron Hoff, TOS State Bird Count Compiler
166 Chahyga Way • Loudon, TN 37774 • 865-567-9679
webe2brdrs@gmail.com

UPCOMING HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

Most of these events are free, family-oriented, and give guests the opportunity to view hummingbird banding research and participate in pollinator themed activities. We hope you're able to enjoy at least one of these Festival this summer.

August 3 & 4th – Woodland's Nature Station HummerFest, Cadiz, KY – 10 am to 4 pm each day - (admission fee) - https://www.facebook.com/WoodlandsNatureStation/?paipv=0&eav=AfY1GL8Y-9CICIcx_a7K1kszE8ANfdhm1QJigNUDkMPJ3z-0CqrtLrJS4Cs6ppgLcHw&_rdr

August 10th – Tennessee Wildlife Refuge Annual Hummingbird Event, Springville, TN - 8 am to 3 pm – free and open to the public - https://www.facebook.com/tennesseenwr/

August 11th – Hummers at the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, Nashville, – 9 am to 1 pm (admission to Zoo is required) - https://www.nashvillezoo.org

August 17th – Rotary Park Hummingbird Festival, Clarksville – free and open to the Public - 8 am to 3 pm - https://mcgtn.org/parks/parks-and-facilities/rotary

August 24th – Cross Creek Hummingbird Event, Dover, TN – Free and open to the public - 8 am to 1 pm - https://www.facebook.com/CCrefuge/

August 25th – Jeffer's Bend Hummingbird Event, Hopkinsville, KY – Free and open to the Public - 2 pm – 5 pm - https://www.facebook.com/JeffersBendEnvironmentalCenter/

August 31st - Hummingbird Festival at The Wilderness Station of Barfield Crescent Park, Murfreesboro – Free and open to the Public - 8 am to 5 pm - https://www.murfreesborotn.gov/Calendar.aspx?EID=38984#:~:text=Saturday%2C%20August%2031%2C%202024,beauty%20of%20these%20tiny%20flyers.

September 7th – Warner Park, Nashville – Free and open to the Public - 9 am to 2 pm - https://warnerparks.org/visit/wpnc/

TN-bird Listserv
by Cyndi Routledge

With so many new members joining NTOS it came to my attention as President that some of them were missing important meeting announcements or bird sightings simple because they were not aware of our TN-bird listserv. In order to remedy that I wrote a brief article for our newsletter and thought I'd share it here as well.

When the internet was in its infancy, long-time TOS/Bristol Bird Club member, Wallace Coffey, established a listserv for the Tennessee birding community. This listserv was a means to modernize the way rare bird alerts were shared, make announcements about meetings and special events, bring attention to legislative initiatives of interest and generally provide birders in Tennessee a way to communicate with each other. At the time it was the only game in town, and Wallace maintained and moderated it for many years. In fact, TOS meeting minutes revealed his many reports and statistics about its usage through the years as well as its popularity within our community. Eventually, Wallace offered ownership of the listserv to TOS so it would become part of our official way of communication, and offered to stay on as moderator, which he did for many more years.

Tn-bird went through a few host changes as the years passed, ultimately landing on freelists.org in 2002.

In 2016 Wallace Coffey passed away, but TN-bird continues as just one of his many legacies.

Since that time many other means of reporting rare birds have come into fashion. So many, in fact, that it's hard to keep up with the latest and greatest. However, what has remained constant for information and announcements regarding the Tennessee Ornithological Society is TN-bird.

For those who are not yet a member of this long-time listserv, we'd like to invite you to become a member. It's easy to join. Go to https://www.freelists.org/list/tn-bird and subscribe. There are options to receive in digest form, to stop emails while on vacation or unsubscribe, if that is your preference. Due to privacy rules, we cannot subscribe or unsubscribe you. You must do it yourself. However, if you are having any difficulties with the listserv, please contact Rob Biller, current listserv moderator - xyon42@gmail.com.

I hope this has been helpful and that you'll join us on TN-bird so you don't miss any alerts or announcements posted by TOS members.

CHAPTER NEWS

On March 14, six members of the **BIRDING KINGSPORT CHAPTER** enjoyed an evening of Birds & Brews with discussions around our favorite birds and the destinations we've traveled to see them. On March 20, fourteen adults (and two youngsters) went on a bird walk at Laurel Run Park. We tallied 41 species on what started out to be a chilly but sunny morning. Highlights were a male and female Common Merganser flying by and good looks at an adult Bald Eagle. In March we had a club planning meeting followed by a great program entitled "Hawaii - Three Islands and a Pelagic" by Susan Hubley.

Some of us had our first of season Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at our feeders on April 7. Several of us participated in the Warriors Path State Park's 46th Spring Nature Festival; on April 13. Bill Grigsby presented a program followed by a bird walk. Fourteen members enjoyed a pleasant-weather morning of birding on the Kingsport Greenbelt on April 16. Everyone got good looks at nesting Yellow-crowned Night Herons (we saw a total of eight) and a few of us had first of season male and female Orchard Orioles, Eastern Kingbirds, etc. We tallied 41 species. Our April meeting featured a program by Dr. Fred J. Alsop, III titled "Birding in East Tennessee". It was very informative. On April 25, fifteen observers spent a morning at Phipps Bend where we tallied 63 species. The Exchange Place had their annual Spring Garden Fair on April 27. Partnering with Wild Birds Unlimited, we had a table focusing on Eastern Bluebirds. Several members attended the TOS Spring Meeting in Knoxville on April 26-28.

On May 4, members and guests participated in select areas of Sullivan County to help the Elizabethton Chapter with their spring bird count. Thirty-one people attended our monthly meeting in May with a program on "Native Plants for Bird Friendly Landscapes" by Christy Shivell from Shy Valley Farm Studio & Garden. On May 30, three club members went on a field trip to Burkes Garden in Virginia. We had 74 species in a few hours. We observed numerous Bobolinks in the area.

On June 4, seven members participated in a field trip to Seven Islands State Birding Park. We had 55 species, including many Yellow-Breasted Chats and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. We enjoyed hearing Northern Bobwhite and observed Tree Swallows flying up high with a Red-tailed Hawk. One bird landed on the hawk's back. We had our annual picnic in June. Twenty-three people attended for a pleasant evening of food and fellowship.

UPCOMING EVENT: We are hosting Tim Lenz in Kingsport on October 22. His presentation will be "Birding Tech Evolution: eBird's Impact and Beyond". The event will take place from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Kingsport Center for Higher Education at 300 West Market St.

Leadership Team

The **J. WALLACE COFFEY CHAPTER** – Bristol Bird Club started the spring season with many great field trips. The first was to the Saltville Well Fields, which provide the only inland saline marshes in Virginia. Several trips were to the Weir Dam and other Holston River areas; monthly walks at Steele Creek Park and warbler walks to portions of Buffalo, Cherokee, Holston and Roan Mountains. Gabrielle Lynch of The Nature Conservancy led a walk at the Shady Valley bogs as a follow up to her club presentation. David Kirschke led a walk at Jacobs Nature Center in Johnson City. And last, there was a trip to White Top Mountain in Virginia for high elevation birds and a bonus find of Gray's Lillies.

Our March regular meeting program was presented by Rack Cross, who is a Master Bird Bander. His program was titled "Creating Birding Trails" that enlightened everyone about all the work involved in this endeavor. In April, Gabrielle Lynch who is with The Nature Conservancy, presented "The Shady Valley Bog Restoration Project". She has been involved with this for 30 years. Kera Brewster, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Johnson City, gave a very informative program called "Creating Backyard Bird Habitats".

Our annual club picnic was held in June at Steele Creek Park. It was well attended and a fun time despite the very hot weather. New officers start their term at this time.

CHAPTER NEWS

Bristol Bird Club - *Continued from Page 9*

In Memory: We were very sad to learn of the passing of Richard Lewis in May. Lewis was the Eastern Mountain editor for the TOS Migrant Journal for decades and compiled the Bristol CBC from the 1980s until last year. He was a Master Bander and operated a MAPS banding station on his property. He and Rack Cross set up a bird banding exhibition for visitors to enjoy at the Steele Creek Wildlife Weekend event. He was a good friend and mentor to all who knew him, and he will be greatly missed in the birding community.

Another sad loss was Mae Musick who passed away on May 21 after a brief illness. She was the owner of Musick Lakeside Campground in Bristol, TN where she welcomed all birders to observe birds on her property next to the waterfront. This sight was very well visited, especially during migration periods. Mae enjoyed seeing us and talking about the birds she encountered. We'll miss seeing her outside as she tended her flowers.

Judy Moose, Secretary

Our **CHATTANOOGA CHAPTER** enjoyed over 10 birding field trips in April and May, in addition to bi-weekly trips to Chickamauga Battlefield at dusk in search of Chuck-Will's-Widows and Common Nighthawks. We also hosted a Chimney Swift party at a local restaurant so participants could dine, mingle, and then watch the Chimney Swifts gather to roost. We want to continue to energize our Chapter and add new members and new birders to our club with future events.

Our May speaker was Stephanie Mueller, a ranger at the 416-acre Seven Islands State Park in Knoxville. She spoke about the different habitats of Seven Islands, the efforts to enhance the property, and the importance that the park serves for bird species as well as other animals and plants.

Our April speakers were two graduate students of Dr. DeRochers from Dalton State College. They spoke about their research on migratory bird banding. The study looks specifically at migrant songbirds and their use of ridge habitat adjacent to the college ridge.

We had a nice surprise when two of our members, Luke Thompson and Tim Lenz, spotted a female Vermillion Flycatcher sitting on a barbed wire fence on April 28 at Pineville Road marsh. The bird cooperated beautifully, allowing over 50 people to rush over and view it before flying off. This bird was the first Hamilton County record, second East Tennessee record, and around 20th state record.

Luke also hosted a birding trip to Panama, and president OJ Morgan and member Susan Schott were two of the participants. One of the many memorable moments was a Southern Lapwing flying directly at OJ, who snapped a photo instead of ducking!

Below is the picture.

Ann Glass, Newsletter Editor

LEBANON BIRDING CLUB (John Sellars TOS Chapter) had a delightful annual outing celebrating Summer's pending arrival. We celebrate Summer's arrival with Flowers, Nightjars, and any other critters of nightfall's beauty on our *Nightjar/ Owl Hunt and Flower Garden Tour*!

We began the evening of Saturday, June 15th, with member and Master Gardener Linda Robertson as our Native Wildflower Garden Tour Guide. This garden, located behind Cedars of Lebanon State Park Nature Center, was created as a wonderful and inviting space to enjoy what has been planted for our pollinators, and to encourage biodiversity in our available habitat. After viewing the beautiful flowers, foliage, and an informative tour, we journey to the Limestone Glades that are only open by special request for nature study

CHAPTER NEWS

Lebanon - *Continued from Page 10*

and outings, such as this one. We were greeted by usual late afternoon birds singing as we slowly drove down the gravel road. Soon an adult Barred Owl flew up and went a bit deeper into the woods. We were delighted with at least two young Barred Owls nearby doing their raspy wisp call. One even perched long and low enough for others to see. We were also treated to all three of the Nightjars. The Common Nighthawk called while we travelled almost the entire length of the road, from daylight into the late of the night. You also heard its boom sound as it dove, which is always a treat. Several nightjars flew up from the road. The presence of both the Chuck-will's widow and the Eastern Whip-poor-will is always a treat at the glades in Cedar Forest and the State Park itself. A few tree frogs sang to join nightfall's arrival, as well. We hope the fifteen that joined the Glade caravan will come again! Thank you, Linda Robertson, for the flower tour, and staff of *Cedars of Lebanon State Park* for allowing us to enjoy the Glade in the evening without traffic noise! We are appreciative of this summer tradition!

Keep up with our happenings through TOS webpage or https://lebanonbirding.org/ website.

Melissa Turrentine

NOVEMBER 15th DEADLINE

The deadline date for the December issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* is November 15th. Please submit all articles, announcements, reports and items of interest by this deadline date.

Submit Material To:
Theresa Graham, Editor
(901) 489-0795
e-mail: 2graham@bellsouth.net

MEMORIALS

Mildred Louise Bouton Gaston of Lebanon, TN

Mildred was a member of the John Sellars Chapter TN Ornithological Society, among many other organizations involving gardening and history. She was a quiet yet fun person to be with when she was able to come to the club. She, her sister Jane Farris, and countless others for years saw to it we had a meeting place at the Presbyterian Church in Lebanon. We had planned to honor her as the oldest living TOS member, but Covid came, and we never followed through. She was always quick to point out she was not an original member but had joined soon after the club had formed.

Dimples Davis Zipperer of Murfreesboro, TN

Mrs. Zipperer received her master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and was a retired schoolteacher with Metro Davidson County Schools. She was also a member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church. Dimples was a kind and loving person. We miss her. We need to be like her in our giving of hugs and unconditional love while being a birder!

Mrs. Zipperer is survived by her husband of 61 years, TOS members Andrew J. "Jack" Zipperer and son, Stephen Zipperer.

Bernard Lyles Holladay of Hermitage, TN

Bernie proudly served in the US Navy and attended the University of NC.

He enjoyed woodworking, bird watching, observing the weather, watching NASCAR, and fixing anything that was broken. He was a member of the TN Ornithological Society and a 15-year volunteer for CoCoRaHS, whose weather observations are used by the National Weather Service and others.

Bernie is survived by wife Ann Hendrix Holladay. We miss Bernie and look forward to Ann returning to our group when she is able.

CHAPTER NEWS

The **MEMPHIS CHAPTER** of the TOS hosted several fascinating and informative presentations at our monthly meetings prior to taking our summer break in June.

Our March program, which showcased our annual potluck dinner, was highlighted by Cindy Routledge's Hummingbird presentation, which is always a delight and crowd pleaser. Cindy is president and CEO of Southeastern Avian Research, established to promote conservation and preservation of hummingbirds and other neotropical migrants. Practical advice regarding feeder maintenance and appropriate habitat implementation was accompanied by mesmerizing Hummingbird images.

In April, chapter member Van Harris presented a photographic overview of his excursions to South Africa, accompanied by audio of the South African choral group, Ladysmith Black Mombazo. The talk profiled avian, mammalian, and reptilian species, all captured by Van's outstanding photography, and made more memorable as a result of his love for that part of the world and its people.

In May, another chapter member, Julia Weil, a doctoral student at the University of Memphis, presented "Lessons Learned from House Finches and Conjunctivitis." Julia's energetic and animated presentation provided an overview of her research, the science and practical applications addressing this very real concern.

The following slate of officers was unanimously approved by the membership at our June meeting to serve in their respective capacities for the ensuing 2 years.

Liz Hall, President; Caroline & Neil Lovett, Co-Vice Presidents; Barbara Pyles, Treasurer; Knox Martin, Recording Secretary

Wishing everyone a temperate summer season as we eagerly await the return of our feathered friends from parts north.

Jim Varner, President

It was a busy migration season for our **NASHVILLE CHAPTER**. We concluded our 44th consecutive year of Wednesday morning Radnor Lake walks with over 125 people attending the 4 sessions. This continues to be a wonderful source of community outreach and partnership with Radnor Lake State Park. We also participated in no less than 4 spring migration festival events. We thank Susan Lanier, Susan Hollyday, Cameron Cohen, and Natalie Wallace for volunteering and spreading the word about TOS to festival guests.

Cherie Parker, our Program Coordinator, provided interesting programs for our group. We traveled to Japan and Ecuador, learned about a new Birding App, and were reacquainted with our TOS history through Earl Henry Jr's presentation in June. Cherie is currently putting together our 2025 Program schedule and we invite you to contact us if you have a program you'd like to present to our chapter.

And speaking of TOS history…I'd like to remind everyone that Danny Shelton's amazing documentary on our history is available on our webpage at: https://tnbirds.org/about/ - scroll to the bottom of the page and click on A Century of Birds. This film made its debut at our 100th Anniversary celebration in 2015 to resounding praise and applause. If you've never seen it, we encourage you to have a look to fully understand the history of TOS and the amazing conservation work done by TOS members. If you were lucky enough to be in the room in 2015, I encourage you to view it again as a reminder and inspiration.

Our field trip coordinator, Mike Smith, provided our group with both old and new destinations for our monthly field trips. We not only thank him, but all those who co-led and those who attended these adventures.

Finally, after a brief hiatus in July and August we will flock back together in September for our annual Fall Flock Potluck Dinner. If you're in the greater Nashville area the 3rd Thursday of September, please join us at 6 pm at Radnor Lake State Park Visitor's Center for an evening of fellowship and a pictural adventure to Belize.

Cyndi Routledge, President

CHAPTER NEWS

In February **HIGHLAND RIM CHAPTER** member Cheryl King gave a program on bluebirds and the Great Backyard Bird Count to members of the Franklin County Garden Club in Winchester. Cheryl gave a brief history of the decline of bluebirds and how their population has increased since the decline. She taught the members about bluebird nesting box specifications, according to the North American Bluebird Society. She brought a mounted box with the predator guard to show, and better explain to them, the importance of the detailed requirements. Included in her program was a suet recipe for bluebirds, along with lots of educational pictures and facts. This provided the Garden Club members a better understanding of the recovery of the bluebird population. Cheryl also shared, with the members, information on how to do the Great Backyard Bird Count and how to record their counts. Cheryl later shared with us that several of the members have placed bluebird houses in their backyards. The oldest member, who is 91, asked Cheryl and her husband to build and install one for her and another one for her neighbor, which they happily did!

On the last Saturday in March a few us attended the annual Bluebell Island Ramble, hosted by the South Cumberland Regional Land Trust. Several of their board members, including our very own Eugene Ham, and naturalists helped lead the pilgrimage across the Elk River to the island. It was largest attendance yet for this event. The crossing to the island involves a temporary log bridge with rope handholds. There were plenty of young folks to assist in getting everyone safely across to the island. Eugene happily reported no one fell in this year! All who attended the short ramble were treated to a bountiful display of spring wildflowers: Virginia Bluebells, yellow and white Trout Lillies, red and white Trilliums, and several varieties of violets as well as the beauty of the island itself. The island is also a paradise for songbirds. Absolutely worth the trek over the makeshift bridge!

Respectfully submitted,
Janie Denis

IN MEMORY

It is with deep sadness to report Kerry Syler passed away on Thursday, May 9th. Kerry had been an instrumental member of the Highland Rim Chapter for many years. He was our Field Trip Coordinator. He was very knowledgeable on all birds, and enjoyed sharing very entertaining bird and nature stories with us. Kerry gave a program to HRC on Duck's Unlimited and shared with us the history and value of this organization. Kerry never missed participating in the Roadside Raptor survey, bird counts, hawk watch or anything HRC/TOS had. Kerry and his wife, Marie, opened their home to HRC on several occasion. We enjoyed great food, a stroll through their vineyard and much laughter.

Kerry worked seventeen years as a welder and pipe fitter for Jack Daniels. He was also a sales rep for Hytorc. Kerry loved to hunt, fish, and was a master beekeeper. Kerry produced Paradise Vineyard honey, was a wine maker, and a master at barbecuing. He was also a member of the Farris Creek Masonic Lodge, the Sons of the Confederacy, and the coach of the 4-H Trap Shooting Team.

Thank you, Kerry for introducing me to "Wild Goose Jack" (Jack Miner). He shared with HRC members that Hooded Mergansers eat fish and are not good ducks for us to eat. He stressed the importance of our wetlands and their sustainability. He talked about the Fish Crow vs. American Crow difference. Kerry, your presence will be missed. May your memory continue to be a blessing to all who knew you.

CHAPTER NEWS

The **KNOXVILLE CHAPTER** of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (KTOS) hosted the Spring TOS in Knoxville, TN on April 26-28, 2024. There were field trips to Seven Islands State Birding Park, Sharps Ridge, and Gupton Wetlands as part of the Spring meeting. There was a great turnout for the Spring meeting, and club members mingled with other TOS members from across the state for the potluck reception the first night and then the dinner with speaker on Saturday night. The speaker for the dinner was Tiffany Kersten of Nature Ninja Birding Tours.

Presentations for the regular Spring KTOS meeting included speakers Tim Lenz from eBird and Clare Dattilo speaking on the community science projects at Seven Islands State Birding Park.

Regular field trips for KTOS included bird walks at Sharps Ridge, Cove Lake State Park, and Maryville College. In June, some KTOS members took a guided tour of the new American Eagle Foundation building and property in Kodak, TN before the end of year potluck celebration.

The newly elected officers for KTOS are as follows: Sheila Rygwielski, President; Dean Turley, Vice President; Dawn Headrick, Treasurer; Stephanie Mueller, Secretary. State directors will be Ron Hoff and Laura Tappan.

Stephanie Mueller, KTOS secretary

Field trip at Seven Islands led by Kirk Huffstater
Photo Credit: Chris Welsh

Outdoor Board of Directors meeting
Photo Credit: Chris Welsh

Dinner Speaker, Tiffany Kersten of Nature Ninja Birding Tours
Photo Credit: Sheila Rygwielski